

Plastics Industry Initiatives to Reduce Waste and Expand Recycling Infrastructure

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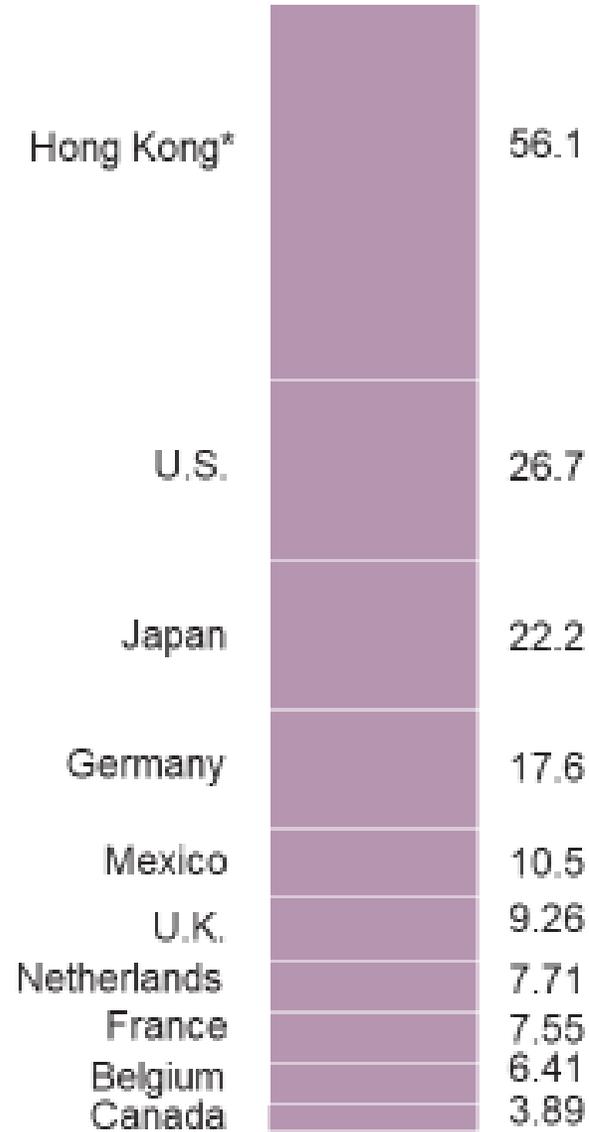
Credit: CP Group



Plastic waste trade, 1988 to 2016

CUMULATIVE AMOUNTS, IN MILLIONS OF METRIC TONS

TOP EXPORTERS



Plastic waste exports from the U.S. in 2016

693,444 metric tons

56% sent to China

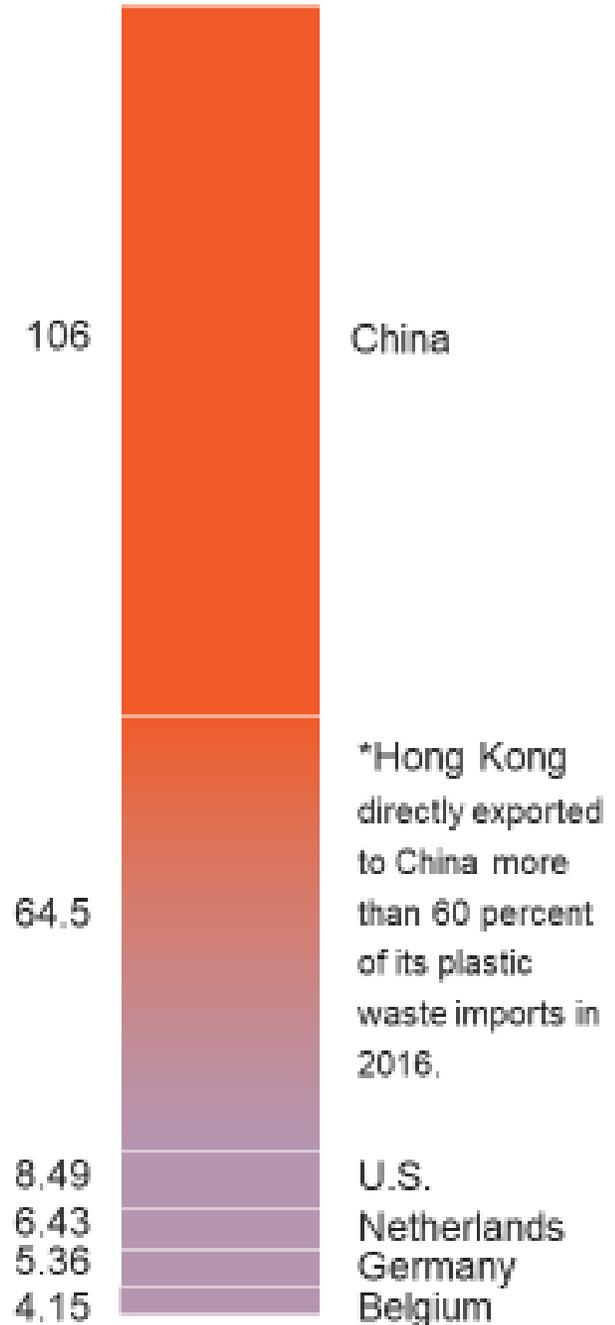
32% H.K.

Canada 3%

Mexico 4%

India 5%

TOP IMPORTERS



*Hong Kong directly exported to China more than 60 percent of its plastic waste imports in 2016.

PUBLICATION

Fueling Plastics: Series examines deep linkages between the fossil fuels and plastics industries, and the products they produce

Launched on September 20th, 2017, **Fueling Plastics**, an ongoing investigative series, examining the deep linkages between the fossil fuels and plastics industries and the products they produce, and exposing how the US shale gas boom fuels a massive buildout of plastics infrastructure in the United States and beyond. In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, and the release of air pollutants and toxic substances from petrochemical facilities across the Gulf region, these reports shed new light on the harmful impacts of fossil fuels at every stage of their lifecycle.

[Fossils, Plastics, and Petrochemical Feedstocks](#) outlines the role of fossil fuels in plastics production, detailing how over 99% of plastics are produced from chemicals sourced from fossil fuels. Because fossil fuel production is highly localized to specific areas, plastics production is also concentrated in specific regions where fossil fuel development is most prevalent, especially in the US Gulf Coast Basin.



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Asian states urged to sign treaty to avoid 'tidal wave' of foreign trash

August 07, 2018

Authorities in Thailand have been scrambling to contain a waste scandal after discovering a vast amount of plastic and electronic waste has been imported this year – often illegally – by factories involved in recycling.

Thais have been horrified to learn in recent weeks that hundreds of thousands of tons of electronic waste has been shipped into the country since China's decision to stop taking waste from wealthy countries at the end of last year.

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Tags

e-waste export Basel

e-Stewards e-Stewards Enterprise

Basel Advocacy China denial

shipbreaking Philippines BAN

Chemicals of Concern in Food Packaging

- Bisphenol A
- Ortho-phthalates
- Styrene
- PVC
- Perchlorate
- Perfluoroalkylated substances
- And now...everything other than glass or stainless steel



Interest Group Activities

- **Natural Resources Defense Council**
 - 2014 - Generally Recognized as Secret Report (outgrowth of 2011 Pew project)
 - 2014 – 2016 - Food Additive Petitions to ban various phthalates, perfluorocarboxylates, and perchlorate in food contact uses
- **Food Packaging Forum (glass industry)**
 - 2012 – 2018 Publications and workshops on dangers of food contact materials
 - 2018 - Chemicals associated with plastic packaging (148 “highly hazardous”)
- **American Academy of Pediatrics**
 - 2018 - Policy Statement and Technical Report - Common Food Additives May Pose Health Risks to Children



Related Sustainable Development Goals



GOAL 12
Sustainable Consumption
and Production



GOAL 13
Climate Action



GOAL 14
Life Below Water



BLUEPRINT FOR HEALTHY OCEANS, SEAS AND RESILIENT COASTAL COMMUNITIES



Six Basel OEWG Outcomes

- Annex Amendments
- Partnership on Plastics Waste
- E-waste
- Household Waste Partnership
- Harmonized Customs Commodity coding
- Draft manuals on EPR
- Next Meeting May 2019



KraftHeinz Becomes Fourth Big Company to Agree to As You Sow's Request for Action and Timeline on Recyclable Packaging

(P&G, Colgate-Palmolive; Unilever)



Americans want to recycle

Recyclables are valuable
feedstocks

US exported 16 million
tons of commodities to
China - \$5.2 billion

New End Market Opportunities

Secured various PE film samples

Understand range of contamination and necessary processing methods

Perform standard testing on sample bales

Identify potential end markets



Path Forward

More equipment testing

End market assessment

MRF economic analysis

Community MRF demonstration

Business partners to use material

Material Recovery for the Future

Pilot project to demonstrate the technical and economic feasibility of recycling household flexible plastic packaging from municipal residential single-stream recycling.



TotalRecycle, Inc.

14-acre site; Berks County, PA

estimating 3,100 tons/year of film feedstock will be produced





PLASTICS

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Domestic Recycling Infrastructure Act



The Association of Plastic Recyclers



FOODSERVICE PACKAGING INSTITUTE®









Federal



State



Local

Purposes

Improve national infrastructure

Prevent litter

Combat negative economic impacts

Increase recyclable material collection





Use of Funding Recycling Related Technology

Increases collection rates

Expands curbside

Expands materials

Improves quality

Improves sorting/separation



Use of Funding

Recycling Related Programs

Consumer education and job training

Transitioning between programs

Enhancing curbside performance

Promoting public space recycling

Developing rural markets

End market development



Eligibility - States

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act compliance
Authority to distribute grants
and waste management plans
Establish recycling benchmarks



Eligibility - Municipalities

Solid waste management plans

Education outreach programs

Establish recycling benchmarks

Collect at least three materials

Own/operate/contract for recycling services



Next Steps

Continue to refine language

Confer with EPA

Find Congressional Champion(s)

Secure funding mechanism

Consult states and localities

